

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO. --

ILLEGIB

COUNTRY Rumania; Bulgaria; Hungary; Albania; USSR;
Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Political; Military - Underground activities,
guerrillas, sabotage,
HOW police
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 26 Feb 1953

WHERE PUBLISHED Greece

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE PUBLISHED 8 Oct - 21 Dec 1952

LANGUAGE Greek, French

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PERMITTED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
IN SOVIET SATELLITE COUNTRIES

[The following information on political, military, and subversive activities in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania was compiled from news items appearing in the Greek press from 8 October to 21 December 1952.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Albania

On 19 October, Stratiotika Nee, an Athens daily newspaper, reported that information received from reliable sources revealed that Enver Hoxha was going through very trying times in Albania. The report stated that resistance against the regime had extended to the central and western parts of Albania. According to the paper, this was evidenced by the fact that the number of secret police and security organs of the country had been increased by about 1,000 men. The paper also revealed that despite the attempts of Mehmet Shehu, Albanian Minister of the Interior, to crush resistance movements, no partisan has been captured, because the people in the rural areas were aiding these guerrilla groups.

Stratiotika Nee of the same date, also reported that on 20 August, a battle took place at Kruje between army units and nationalist guerrillas, during which 10 Communists and 7 guerrillas were killed. The same report also revealed that from July 1952 onward, compulsory labor on farms and other works of common concern had been ordered for all workers between the ages of 18 and 50 of the city of Korce.

According to the same newspaper, information has been received which states that the Kremlin is now thinking of replacing Hoxha with Mehmet Shehu.(1)

25X1A

RESTRICTED

25X1A

On 24 October, the Athens daily newspaper Le Messenger d'Athenes reported that a new wave of arrests took place in Albania after the local and communal elections of 16 and 26 September. The paper stated that the Shkoder and Kukes prisons were filled and now contain 1,500 prisoners. The report also said that it was estimated that during the past 6 months, more than 3,000 persons were arrested.(2)

On 16 November, Stratitika Nea reported that reliable information coming from persons who had escaped from Albania revealed that one of the largest concentration camps there is that of Tnezaro [transliteration from the Greek] Maliq, located in southeast Albania, near Korce.

According to the same report, there are at present about 2,000 persons in this camp, divided into 12 labor battalions. The camp inmates, according to the paper, work 10 or more hours a day. Usually, said the paper, the work is done in the vicinity of a lake, where workers must work half-submerged in the water. The report stated that the camp guards beat the inmates and on many occasions deprive them of their food rations. Another form of punishment which is often meted out is to force the prisoners to remain in the water even after work has ended.

According to the same paper, the camp inmates are in a miserable state of health. They sleep on the ground, and as a result, their clothing never dries out completely. The report said that tents are issued only during winter.(3)

On 30 November, Le Messenger d'Athenes reported that security measures on the Albanian frontiers are continuing. The newspaper stated that fortifications are being built along the frontiers, and the people living in frontier villages are being displaced. In the vicinity of Broje, in the Shkoder District, said the paper, an order was issued to the effect that one person in a 2-member family must do compulsory work for an indeterminate period of time; two persons in a 3-member family; three persons in a 4-member family, and so on.(4)

On 21 December Stratitika Nea reported that according to information received from Albania, big battles took place a few days before between nationalist guerrillas and Albanian armed forces in the vicinity of Farna, near Lumas, as well as near the town of Mernsetik [unidentified; transliteration from the Greek], near Konispol. Other guerrilla units, said the paper, blew up a bridge near Leskovec and other bridges on the road to Premet. Moreover, according to the report, important sabotage acts took place in the mines of northern Albania, where 3,000 workers are employed. Guerrillas were active in other areas of Albania, the paper stated, and the reason attributed to this movement is the terrible economic situation in the country. The report added that the entire economy of the country has fallen into the hands of Soviet specialists who have, among other things, ordered that a large copper factory in Albania be shipped to the Soviet Union.(5)

Bulgaria

On 8 October, Le Messenger d'Athenes reported that the entire Bulgarian coast facing the Black Sea has been declared a military zone for a depth of 15 kilometers. The report said that individuals can not circulate in this area unless they have a special permit issued to them by the military authorities.

The same newspaper also reported that the port of Stalin (Varna) has been declared a military port. Only Bulgarian and Soviet vessels are permitted to enter, according to the paper. The report noted that Soviet vessels entering this port are transporting heavy artillery pieces, evidently to be installed for coast defenses.

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

25X1A

RESTRICTED

According to the same newspaper, the port of Burgas is being converted into a military port. Projects began in 1950 and are about to be finished. The report added that a large military air base and a number of shelters have been built there. Moreover, a new railroad line linking Burgas to Stalin is about to be completed, the paper revealed. The report said that access to the city is prohibited to all persons not furnished with a special authorization.(6)

On 19 October, Stratotika Nea reported that the Bulgarian newspaper Zemedejsko Zname /no date given/ published an article which revealed that the Bulgarian People's Agricultural Union was recently forced to expel 20 members of the Sofia agricultural region, 28 members of the Plovdiv region, and 7 members of the Vidin region for "their antiagrarian and subversive activities."(1)

On 14 October, O Ellinikos Vorras, a Salonica daily newspaper, published a Sidirokaton-dated dispatch which reported that Georgi Georgiev, a Bulgarian fugitive, recently presented himself to the Greek frontier military authorities. The report said that Georgiev revealed that resistance groups in Bulgaria have been active for some time and have undertaken many sabotage activities. He said that despite severe measures being undertaken by the military authorities under the direction of the Soviets, the people are going over to the side of the guerrillas whenever an opportunity presents itself. He finally said, that "the fear of the government leaders that the nationalist movement would finally predominate is fully evident. Moreover, they are constantly talking about a possible impending action by Americans, Greeks, and Yugoslavs to liberate Bulgaria."(7)

On 12 October, the same newspaper published a Paris-dated dispatch reporting that a very powerful radio station is being built in Sofia, which will be used to broadcast to Greece and Turkey. This station, said the report, is being built on the request of the Soviet Union and under the supervision of Soviet technicians.(8)

On 14 December, Stratotika Nea reported that reliable sources revealed that an official agreement was recently signed between the Bulgarian government and the Soviet military mission there /according to Le Messenger d'Athenes of 23 October, the Soviet military mission in Bulgaria is composed of 2,400 military and civilian personnel/. The paper continued that by virtue of this agreement, almost all civil and penal prisoners will be forced to go to the USSR for "ideological re-education." The report also said that it has been agreed further that all travel and subsistence expenses of the above prisoners will be carried by the Bulgarian government. The paper stated that this measure is considered by political observers as an indication of the bad domestic political situation in Bulgaria, because of which the Soviets do not put any trust in the Bulgarian authorities. It is also believed, according to the report, that the above prisoners are being used on heavy labor projects.(9)

Hungary

On 16 December, Le Messenger d'Athenes reported that the construction of the strategic highway linking the USSR with Hungary by way of Ruthenia was judged by Moscow to be going on too slowly. The report said that Moscow has demanded that Hungary recruit a new contingent of 1,500 "volunteers" to work on this project. In execution of this order, said the paper, deportees have been sent to work in the Satoraljaughely quarries, which furnish most of the material used in the construction of the highway.

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

25X1A

RESTRICTED

The same newspaper also reported that a powder magazine was recently blown up at Dunakeszi, 20 kilometers north of Budapest, on the Danube River. The report said that the explosion could be heard in Budapest. According to the paper, there were 700 victims, of whom 200 were killed. All the ambulances of Budapest transported the wounded for a period of some 48 hours. The cause of the explosion is not known the paper said. The report concluded by saying that the authorities have not issued any statement on the event.

The same newspaper also revealed that mass deportations have taken place in the cities of Debrecen and Nyiregyhaza. Some 800 families have been deported to camps located on the Hortobagy Plain. The report said that the deportations were carried out at night. (10)

On 16 November, Straitotika Nsa reported that according to positive information from reliable sources, ten directors of a factory manufacturing various precision instruments were arrested during the first 10 days of October. The report revealed that the directors were accused of sabotage and embezzlement. The paper added that the factory worked exclusively for the USSR.

According to the same report, more than 500 inhabitants of the city of Miskolc were arrested in the first part of October and immediately sent by the state police to compulsory labor camps. (3)

On 14 December, the same newspaper published a report which stated that reliable information from Budapest revealed that thousands of inhabitants of various urban centers are being moved. The report said that 3,000 inhabitants living in large cities were arrested by police in November and sent to an unknown destination. In October, added the report, 10,000 peasants were sent to forced labor camps and were deprived of all their property. The reason for this displacement, according to the report, seems to be Moscow's criticism against the Hungarian government for its failure to enforce agricultural socialization. (9)

Rumania

On 14 December, Straitotika Nsa reported that according to reliable information, various nationalist organizations which regularly circulate bulletins and other printed matter giving various information and anti-Communist slogans are secretly operating in Rumania, despite large-scale purges and increased terrorism. The report stated that such printed matter was recently circulated and called on workers to continue and increase sabotage in industry. Similar printed matter was found inside a factory at Galati, in the Drapelul Rosu Plant at Stalin, in the Republica Plant at Bucharest, and in the vicinity of the coal mines of Valea-Jiului, the paper said.

The same report revealed that in connection with the Danube-Black Sea Canal project, workers are being conscripted for the most part from among prisoners held at the Baragan Camp and at a camp located in the Ialomita Regiune.

The same newspaper also reported that guerrilla groups have appeared in the mountainous region of Mehedinzi, and especially around the top of Mt. Godteanu.

According to the same report, these groups are chiefly made up of peasants of the region who have been forced to flee to the mountains to avoid the oppressive measures of the authorities. One of these groups, the report stated, recently appeared near the town of Ciresu. According to the report, attempts by the militia to attack the group failed. (9)

RESTRICTED

25X1A

RESTRICTED

Miscellaneous

On 16 November, O Ellinikos Vorras published a Belgrade-dated dispatch which stated that an official Yugoslav government source revealed that the Balkan satellite countries have over one million men on a war footing and that the majority of these men are stretched along the Yugoslav frontier. The dispatch went on to say that Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Albania are trying to make an armed display to intimidate the Yugoslav people. The dispatch also declared that a great number of reserves has been called up in the above countries in the past few months and that the USSR is constantly sending more heavy weapons and supplies to these countries. The dispatch added that strong satellite armored forces are strung along the Yugoslav frontiers and that airfields are filled with the latest model Soviet jet aircraft.(11)

SOURCES

1. Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 19 Oct 52
2. Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 24 Oct 52
3. Stratiotika Nea, 16 Nov 52
4. Le Messenger d'Athenes, 30 Nov 52
5. Stratiotika Nea, 21 Dec 52
6. Le Messenger d'Athenes, 8 Oct 52
7. Salonica, O Ellinikos Vorras, 14 Oct 52
8. Ibid., 12 Oct 52
9. Stratiotika Nea, 14 Dec 52
10. Le Messenger d'Athenes, 16 Dec 52
11. O Ellinikos Vorras, 16 Nov 52

- E N D -

- 5 -

RESTRICTED